



A CURRICULUM OF HOPE
FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD

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A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

It takes
courage
to
choose
hope
over
fear.

Facebook CEO
Mark Zuckerberg

Founder's Message

Please join me in focusing your daily living on HOPE for a more peaceful world for all. We must try to keep a sense of perspective regarding the political and religious extremists everywhere who are drawing strength from each other and ramping up their rhetorical evil messages and despicable acts. Although they dominate mainstream world news by instilling fear and terror in good people everywhere, they are very small misguided groups. We must be vigilant for they are well-organized and appeal to ordinary citizens, especially youth who feel unaccepted, disenfranchised and ignored. Those who are vulnerable are ripe for the picking: "Promise me something different and better and I'll follow you anywhere."

Our assignment as peacemakers in this toxic environment is to remind family, friends, and all those with whom we contact to think critically. Remember, foremost, that all human beings are brothers and sisters sharing a fragile planet: our very survival depends on each of us. We must speak up and act. We must remember what we believe about human rights, that every human being has the same rights JUST BECAUSE we are human. We must continue to accept each other's differences, whatever those may be, and allow everyone the freedom to exist as they choose so long as their beliefs and actions do not interfere with others. Let's remember to be thankful for what we have and respond to each other's plights: to help those less fortunate to a better existence for all of us. Let's not ignore those who have nothing and are fleeing from tyranny. Each of us is required to recognize that social justice and equality are vital ingredients in the lives of everyone everywhere in a peaceful caring world society. We cannot allow ourselves to get caught up in the theory of entitlement: "I work hard every day trying to make a living and I am entitled to all I have." That theory is counter-productive to all and promotes the trend toward "haves and have-nots."

Instead, let's each vow to bring to bear our personal qualities of compassion, caring, empathy, respect, responsibility, tolerance and acceptance coupled with and augmented by our individual actions of sharing, giving, helping, welcoming and embracing our fellow human beings. This is NOT an easy fix. It will not happen quickly. The world has always had wars with demagogues, tyrants, those who would exploit and even murder others JUST BECAUSE they wanted to and could get enough others to do it for/with them. We, together, must stop that history from continuing. "The emergence of a new world view based on group collaboration, sharing, and true human values....provides clear evidence that the consciousness of humanity is indeed transforming."* We are destined to shape a different future, one focused on hope for peace, JUST BECAUSE we can!

My heart and mind are still irrevocably focused on hope for peace: undeterred, determined and abiding! Join me in maintaining a peaceful mindset: a sense of inner peace that is needed to bring peace to others. Every day is an opportunity to let our godness make a difference in some small way. When you listen to the daily hateful acts of divisiveness, be it actual terrorism or inciting rhetoric, keep your mindset on what YOU are going to do to counter their effects. Believe in your individual power. Join me in feeling sorrow and grief for lives lost to terrorism in this embattled world society. Keep your own core values focused and be determined to contribute every day to HOPE FOR PEACE. Hope is greater than fear!

Jeanne Morascini
Founder

*Towards a New Economy, Daniel Hersann at the 2015 World Goodwill Seminar in Geneva, Switzerland



Resources and Ideas



Women Making Change, Women Forging Hope

Teaching Tolerance teamed with Bread and Roses, part of the National Health & Human Service Employees Union of the AFL-CIO, to present the **International Women of Hope Project**. For grades 9—12, the International Women of Hope Project features 12 of the world's most vibrant and visionary female activists, who are shedding the light of optimism in an effort to change lives for the better. Presenting in-depth biographies, thought-provoking activities and invaluable resources, the free guide spotlights the life's work of each subject, providing information that is sure to enliven classroom discussion about the role women have played, and continue to play, in the evolution of a more just, peaceful and environmentally sound world.

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/women-making-change-women-forging-hope>

Starting Small

Preschool and early-grade teachers can order **Starting Small** from **Teaching Tolerance**, a free training kit to help young children build inclusive and caring communities. The kit profiles seven innovative classrooms in which teachers are helping children practice fairness, respect and tolerance.

"Starting Small" includes a 58-minute film featuring Vivian Gussin Paley. The companion text (PDF) featuring classroom profiles, reflection prompts and activities can be downloaded at Teaching Tolerance's website. <http://www.tolerance.org/kit/starting-small>

Check out **Look for The Good Project**, founded by Anne Kubitsky, a biologist-turned-artist. Having been a victim of sexual assault, Anne started the LFTGP when she was feeling isolated and alone. Searching for a sense of purpose, she left 500 blank invitation postcards asking people to share what they are grateful for and mail it back to her. Since then, she has befriended thousands of strangers. The LFTGP gave Anne hope when she had none and she is now passing that on to others through the Look for the Good Project. Visit the website to get ideas for building a healthier climate for your school.

www.lookforthegoodproject.org/

The Joyful Classroom is a new publication from **Responsive Classroom** offering practical strategies to increase student engagement. In this book, you'll find practical, use-it-now strategies for creating active, interactive, relevant, and exciting lessons including ideas for:

Grouping: Partnering and grouping students for optimum learning

Getting students up and moving: Using interactive learning structures such as Maître d', Popcorn, and Swap Meets to support purposeful, active learning

Things kids love to do: Incorporating acting, drawing, debating, and other favorite activities into daily lessons while still meeting rigorous learning goals

Lesson openings, bodies, and closings: Using a three-part lesson structure that will help you plan lessons that heighten students' engagement and deepen their learning.

Choices: Infusing lessons with choices in what to learn or how to learn to increase students' ownership of their learning

Self-assessment: Incorporating student self-assessment tools to help children monitor and evaluate their own work and identify ways to improve their learning.

You can download and print planning guides (PDF format):

- Interactive Modeling Planning Guide
- Guided Discovery Planning Guide
- Role-Play Planning Guide
- Lesson Planning Guide
- Academic Choice Planning Guide

<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/product/the-joyful-classroom/>

RIGHT 2 THRIVE, an American charitable organization, is a registered NGO in Nairobi. Its mission is to break the cycle of poverty through multi-generational empowerment and education. Right 2 Thrive was started with abandoned girls from a Children's Home and has grown to include boys. It provides food, clothing, clean water, housing and education, while also educating mothers. By teaching mothers basic English, literacy, and life skills, we can enable them to generate income, provide for their family and keep their children in school. All R2T programs are free and open to all. www.right2thrive.org.



Resources and Ideas

Know My World is an organization that provides opportunities to learn about other cultures throughout the world by participation in an exchange that collaborates on a project. There are many different types of exchanges: resources, food and nutrition, environmental sustainability, social activism, music, textile, creative writing, and even educator exchanges which allow for team teaching and the creation of classroom exchange activities.

Exchanges can take place through the traditional pen-pal letters or email, or can be via video conferencing and/or discussion groups.

Visit <http://knowmyworld.org/> to find out more about current projects and the exciting collaborations going on throughout the world.

From National Geographic:

A free Service Learning Toolkit for grade 5-12 to help students see how their own interests can be turned into action. Inspired by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai and her remarkable work as a leading global activist for girls' education, the development of this toolkit was inspired by the documentary He Named Me Malala, featured on the National Geographic Channel.

<http://media.education.nationalgeographic.com/assets/file/service-learning-educator-guide.pdf>

Sesame Street in Afghanistan has introduced its first Afghan Muppet, and she has a mission to focus on girls' empowerment. The hope is that the Muppet, called Zari, will become a strong role model for girls, in a country with a poor record of promoting women's rights. Eighty-five percent of women have no formal education and the literacy rate for women is 24 percent, one of the lowest in the world.

Once you choose hope,
anything's possible

Christopher Reeve



You cannot get through a
single day
without having an impact
on the world around you.
What you do makes
a difference,
and you have to decide
what kind of difference
you want to make.



Jane Goodall

(in The Paper Bag Boy
of Abu Dhabi)

Help students develop core values through art, writing, performing, and other activities with the components of the **Transformative Teaching Collection**—videos on empathy, gratitude, forgiveness, and self-acceptance from The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values. The Center at MIT is dedicated to inquiry, dialogue, and education on the ethical and humane dimensions of life. The Center was founded to honor the vision of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama and his call for a holistic education that includes the development of human and global ethics.

<http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/transformative-teachers/>

Check out **Responsive Classroom's April Newsletter** for ideas for ending the school year. There are three links to archived articles entitled "Joyful Endings," "A Focused Finish," and "Bringing the School Year to a Strong Finish." The articles stress the importance of helping students to transition to the next grade, while maintaining the expectation that learning will continue until the last day of school. Also included are ideas for celebrating the growth of all students.

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=0481ddb9acc0098c25328721c&id=15176e95ae&e=7a16f8ba87>

Caring for Our Planet



Protect the Pollinators

Some of our most important pollinators are in trouble. The population of bees, butterflies, and bats continues to decline world-wide. While there is still no definitive answer as to what is happening to the bee population, in January of 2016 the Environmental Protection Agency released a report showing that neonicotinoid pesticides play a role in bee colony collapse. The EPA found in some cases the chemical didn't harm bees or their hives but in other cases it posed a significant risk. It mostly depended on the crop. Neonicotinoids harmed honeybees when used on cotton plants and citrus trees but not on other big crops like corn, berries and tobacco.

Neonicotinoid pesticides tamper with insects' central nervous systems, threatening the honeybee and the many health benefits they provide. Other contributing factors impacting bees include lack of food/habitat loss, parasites and disease.

Scientists warn that it is probable that the eastern monarch butterfly will become extinct within the next twenty years. According to a study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, the population of eastern monarchs dropped by eighty-four percent between the winter of 1996-1997 and the winter of 2014-2015. Most eastern monarchs migrate to Mexico in the winter, while western monarchs spend their winter along the California coastline.



How can we help?

- ◆ Plant flowers! Bees like blues and yellows with a shallow landing area. Red, purples and pinks with flat landing spaces attract monarchs. Zinnias and sunflowers also attract many species.
- ◆ Plant milkweed that is native to your area. Exotic and tropical milkweed is dangerous to monarchs.
- ◆ Embrace your weeds. Dandelions are one of the first spring sources of nectar. Dutch clover is drought-resistant and attracts pollinators.
- ◆ Vegetable and herb gardens, and fruit trees, are also valuable. Oak, willow, cottonwood, and cherry trees provide food for caterpillars.
- ◆ Avoid pesticide use and go natural.
- ◆ Allow for nesting sites.
- ◆ Individuals, schools, businesses, and community groups can join the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge— a campaign to support pollinators. The website has some great ideas on how we all can make a difference. <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>
- ◆ Keep informed—especially with the issue of neonicotinoid pesticides. <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection>. Spread the word. Working together, we can make a difference.

Pollinators are responsible
for 1 out of 3 bites of food
we take each day.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and environmental groups are working to plant milkweed along the Monarch's migration routes in the Midwest. The decline in milkweed is "highly correlated" with the mass-scale adoption of herbicide-tolerant crops like corn and soybean. The United States has managed to restore about 250,000 acres of milkweed in the first year. The agency has pledged to dedicate \$20 million — \$4 million a year for the next five years — to help save America's most recognizable butterfly,

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/monarch-butterflies-face-danger-quasi-extinction-hope-wing-n556316>

Caring for Our Planet

Aitan Grossman, a sixth-grader from California started **kidEarth**, a children's environmental movement. Aitan wrote "100 Generations," a song about taking nature for granted. He sent his song to schools all over the world, looking for children who wanted to fight global warming through the power of music. Their song can be found on Amazon or iTunes. It is Aitan's hope that people will buy the song for \$.99, so he can give the profits to groups that are working to save the planet. On his website you can hear the song and see student's from all over the world singing the chorus. The sheet music is available so your students can sing it too.

<http://www.kidearth.us/Site/KidEarth.html>

Recycling Textiles

What happens when you put clothing into one of those donation bins? It is a common misconception that all clothing put into recycling bins is given to people in need. While this may be true with some collection bins, many of the clothes that are usable are sent overseas and usually end up in developing countries where they are sold and then resold on a micro level. This exchange creates jobs and provides a source of affordable clothing for those who don't have much to spend. Donating the clothes to developing countries would actually be detrimental to the local economies. Giving things away puts the livelihoods of local retailers, tailors, and others in the textile industry in jeopardy. The resale market creates new jobs while offering a cheap source of desirable clothing. This is why, even when offered, most countries will not accept free items.

Clothing that is not wearable is sold for profit overseas as textiles to companies that make rags, furniture padding and insulation materials.

Regardless, If you donate 10 bags of clothing you are saving 14,000 gallons of water, reducing the amount of insecticides released to grow material for new clothes, preventing 30-40 pounds of CO2 gases from polluting the atmosphere, and saving valuable landfill space.

The bottom line is if it matters to you, find out more information about what is happening to your clothes by searching for the name of the box on the internet.

<http://www.planetaid.org/> <http://www.usagain.com/find-a-collection-bin>

Stop & Shop has built a new green energy facility which uses a natural process called anaerobic digestion to convert food that is no longer edible into electricity. It will provide 40% of the energy needed to run Stop & Shop's 1.1 million square-foot distribution center in Freetown, MA.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/stop--shop-opens-state-of-the-art-green-energy-facility-300253716.html>



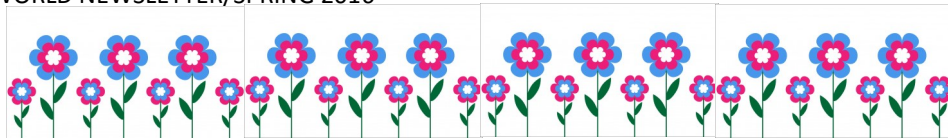
We just celebrated the 46th "birthday" of **Earth Day**. The idea for a national day to focus on the environment came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after he saw the damage of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Twenty million Americans took part on the first Earth Day 1970 and it had support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, farmers and city dwellers, and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. In 1990 Earth Day went global. See 46 of the biggest environmental milestones since the first Earth Day at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/04/160422-earth-day-46-facts-environment/>

The **World Wildlife Fund** says that the population of wild tigers is increasing. There are now an estimated 3,890 tigers in 13 countries across Asia, up from 3,200 in 2010. Russia, Nepal, Bhutan, and India have all pledged to double the population of tigers by 2022. In addition to protection efforts, countries are doing more to protect tiger habitats.

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/species/tiger>



Opportunities



Peace Boat Global University “The Floating Peace Village”

Peace Boat is a non-profit Japan-based United Nations NGO (non-governmental organization) which promotes peace, sustainable development, human rights and respect for the environment. It was formed in 1983 and offers projects for peace and reconciliation and educational activities about conflict prevention and disarmament. This learning takes place on the Peace Boat.

The Peace Boat carries about one thousand passengers and makes three eighty to one hundred day voyages annually around the world. You may sail for any amount of time. Peace Boat visits twenty or so ports during each sailing where participants volunteer and interact culturally with local residents. Onboard, passengers attend workshops as a part of a peace education program including topics on cultural and global issues. You can also organize your own event onboard. Peace boat also welcomes interns to work with them. The 92nd Global Voyage, August-November 2016, will stop at 26 ports in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.

It will be in port in NYC October 20-21.

Peace Boat is in the process of developing an eco-ship complete with green-technologies to revolutionize the cruise industry! For more information, visit www.peaceboat-us.org.

10th International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) Building Stronger Communities Through Peace, Justice, and Security

June 10-11, 2016

Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

http://www.creeducation.org/cre/global_cre/about_global_network/intl_cre_summit_2016/

American School Counselor Association’s Annual Conference The Recipe for Success

New Orleans, LA

July 9—12, 2016

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/annual-conference>

International Literacy Association’s Annual Conference

July 9—11, 2016

Boston, MA

<http://www.literacyworldwide.org/conference/>

Responsive Classroom

Teacher Conference

Celebrating Teachers

October 21-22, 2016

Washington, DC area

Keynote Speaker

Jessica Minahan

[https://](https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/conferences/)

www.responsiveclassroom.org/conferences/

Responsive Classroom

Leadership Conference

Engaging All Students

October 24-25, 2016

Washington, DC area

Keynote Speaker

Wes Moore

[https://](https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/conferences/)

www.responsiveclassroom.org/conferences/

University of Connecticut NEAG School of Education Teacher Leadership Academy

July 25—29, 2016

UConn, Storrs CT Campus

A one-week intensive program designed to develop leadership skills in order to make positive change for your school community.

<http://teachlead.education.uconn.edu/registration/>

Summer is a great time to participate in a **Responsive Classroom** workshop: <http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/workshops-institutes>

La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey IL is offering an Oblate “Caveman” Presentation at their Summer Solstice Celebration on Friday, June 17th from 7:00-9:00 p.m.. Recognize the beginning of summer by honoring Paul Wightman, OMI, who is a long-time spelunker and the earliest surveyor and explorer of the Fogelpole Cave System in Monroe County, IL. Father Paul will give a presentation about the caves and the large and diverse animal population they support. To register call 618-466-5004 or email at info@lavistaelc.org.

Sustainable Development Goals



World Goodwill is an international movement helping to mobilize the energy of goodwill and to build right human relations. World Goodwill is recognized by the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organization. Their newsletter is published three times a year in English, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish and is distributed free of charge. It can also be accessed on their website.

The topic of this year's World Goodwill Seminar in Geneva, New York and London was **Rebuilding the Shrine of Human Living**. The importance of this topic was made even more relevant after the Paris terrorism. The unifying theme across these meetings was the importance of intelligent love; the need for people of goodwill to work in groups or communities; the necessity for sharing of all resources; the concrete working out of this principle of sharing in international agreements such as those governing climate change; the education and support of youth; and the need to find ways to creatively transform conflicts. You can read more and hear audio at

https://www.lucitrust.org/world_goodwill

United Nations Publications has launched the **United Nations iLibrary** which covers most of the contents published under United Nations Publications between 2010 and 2015. About 3,000 titles will be available by the end of 2016, and the **iLibrary** will be updated on the key topics reflecting the SDG's.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage.html>

Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation

In 1998, Leonardo DiCaprio established his foundation with the mission of protecting the world's last wild places. The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation is dedicated to the long-term health and wellbeing of all Earth's inhabitants. Through collaborative partnerships, they support innovative projects that protect vulnerable wildlife from extinction, while restoring balance to threatened ecosystems and communities. LDF works in 4 key areas: protecting biodiversity, ocean, conservation, and climate change. Leonardo DiCaprio spoke on Earth Day to the over 170 nations gathered at the United Nations to sign the 'Paris Agreement' — a sweeping climate pact negotiated last year aimed at slowing global warming while helping the people most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Leonardo DiCaprio addressed the assembly calling on world leaders to accelerate their efforts to combat this growing threat. <http://leonardodicaprio.org/>

The Good News Agency publishes monthly in English, Italian, and Portuguese. It is distributed to 10,000 in 54 countries. These news items and their source were published by Good News Agency and can be found in their entirety at

<http://www.goodnewsagency.org/en/home.php>

Japan provides US\$3.2 million to support World Food Program's emergency relief work in South Sudan

The Government of Japan announced in March a contribution of US\$3.2 million to WFP to support WFP's lifesaving relief operations in South Sudan, including specialized nutrition treatment for mothers and children and a critical aviation service for humanitarian workers.

European refugee crisis: ADRA expands response as refugee influx continues

ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) has projects assisting refugees in seven Eastern European countries, helping over 120,000 refugees and providing them essential items, including food, clothing and hygiene kits, and services such as transport, information and translation services, psychosocial support and charging stations.

Norway and WFP seal multi-year financial commitment to achieve Zero Hunger

Minister for Foreign Affairs Børge Brende and visiting Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Ertharin Cousin reconfirmed their strong commitment to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 by renewing a multi-year Strategic Partnership Agreement between Norway and WFP.

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Our newsletter can be found online at www.deltakappagamma.org/CT/hopenews.php.

If you would like to receive a PDF version by email, please contact

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Curriculum of Hope is a Standing Committee of Alpha Kappa State Connecticut.
Our intent is to promulgate resources and information, not to endorse products.

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